
Complete minimal surfaces in \mathbb{R}^3 with a prescribed coordinate function

Antonio Alarcón* and Isabel Fernández†

Abstract

In this paper we construct complete simply connected minimal surfaces with a prescribed coordinate function. Moreover, we prove that these surfaces are dense in the space of all minimal surfaces with this coordinate function (with the topology of the smooth convergence on compact sets).

2000 Mathematics Subject Classification: Primary 53A10, Secondary 53C42, 49Q05, 30F15

Keywords: Complete minimal surfaces, harmonic functions.

1 Introduction

An isometric immersion $X : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ of a Riemann surface into space is said to be minimal if its coordinate functions are harmonic on M . In 1980, Jorge and Xavier [JX] constructed a complete minimal surface contained in a slab of \mathbb{R}^3 , disproving a conjecture by Calabi [C]. They looked for a minimal immersion of the disk with third coordinate $x_3(z) = \operatorname{Re}(z)$ and complete metric.

In light of the above, it appears as a natural question whether any harmonic function can be realized as a coordinate of a complete minimal surface. The present paper is devoted to answer this question in the simply connected case. More specifically, we extend Jorge-Xavier's result to prove that any harmonic function defined on a simply connected domain is a coordinate function of a conformal complete minimal immersion (see Theorem 2). Moreover, we show that complete surfaces are dense in the space of (simply connected) minimal surfaces with a prescribed coordinate (Corollary 1). These results come as a consequence of the following one.

*Research partially supported by MEC-FEDER grant number MTM2007-61775.

†Research partially supported by MEC-FEDER grant number MTM2007-64504.

Theorem 1 *Let $X = (X_1, X_2, X_3) : \Sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ be a conformal minimal immersion on $\Sigma = \mathbb{C}, \mathbb{D}$, with X_3 being non-constant. Consider $K \subset \Sigma$ a compact set and $\varepsilon > 0$.*

Then, there exists a complete conformal minimal immersion $Y = (Y_1, Y_2, Y_3) : \Sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ such that

- (a) $\|X - Y\| < \varepsilon$ in K .
- (b) $X_3 = Y_3$.

We also derive from Theorem 1 some results concerning existence of complete null curves in \mathbb{C}^3 and complete maximal surfaces in \mathbb{L}^3 with a prescribed coordinate (Section 4).

The construction of the Jorge-Xavier's surface relies on a clever use of the Runge's classical theorem with a suitable labyrinth close to the boundary of the disk. A refinement of Jorge and Xavier's ideas led to Nadirashvili [N1] to construct conformal complete bounded minimal disks. Nadirashvili's arguments have given rise to the construction of complete bounded minimal surfaces with other additional properties (see for instance [LMM, MN, AFM, A]). However, all the coordinate functions of these examples are implicit.

Despite we use some ideas related to Nadirashvili's technique in the proof of the above theorem, it is not possible in general to construct complete bounded minimal surfaces with a prescribed (bounded) coordinate function. We show a requirement for a harmonic function on the disk to be the coordinate function of a complete bounded minimal surface in Proposition 1 (see also [N2, AN]).

Finally, we would like to point out that the only complete simply connected embedded minimal surfaces are the plane and the helicoid [MR, CM]. Therefore, our surfaces are not embedded, except for the aforementioned cases.

2 Preliminaries

This section is devoted to briefly summarize the notation and results that we use in the paper.

From now on, we denote by Σ an open simply-connected Riemann surface. By the Uniformization Theorem we can assume that Σ is either the complex plane \mathbb{C} or the open unit disk \mathbb{D} . Furthermore, for any $r > 0$, we denote by $\mathbb{D}_r = \{z \in \mathbb{C} \mid |z| < r\}$ and $\mathbb{S}_r^1 = \{z \in \mathbb{C} \mid |z| = r\}$.

Consider a Riemannian metric $d\tau^2$ in Σ . Given a curve α in Σ , by $\text{length}_{d\tau^2}(\alpha)$ we mean the length of α with respect to the metric $d\tau^2$. Moreover, we define:

- $\text{dist}_{d\tau^2}(p, q) = \inf\{\text{length}_{d\tau^2}(\alpha) \mid \alpha : [0, 1] \rightarrow \Sigma, \alpha(0) = p, \alpha(1) = q\}$, for any $p, q \in \Sigma$.
- $\text{dist}_{d\tau^2}(T_1, T_2) = \inf\{\text{dist}_{d\tau^2}(p, q) \mid p \in T_1, q \in T_2\}$, for any $T_1, T_2 \subset \Sigma$.

Throughout the paper, we work with metrics induced by conformal minimal immersions $X : \Sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$. Then, by $\lambda_X^2 |dz|^2$ we mean the Riemannian metric induced by X in Σ . We also write $\text{dist}_X(T_1, T_2)$ instead of $\text{dist}_{\lambda_X^2 |dz|^2}(T_1, T_2)$, for any sets T_1 and T_2 in Σ .

2.1 Minimal surfaces background

The theory of complete minimal surfaces is closely related to the theory of Riemann surfaces. This is due to the fact that any such surface is given by a triple $\Phi = (\Phi_1, \Phi_2, \Phi_3)$ of holomorphic 1-forms defined on some Riemann surface M such that

$$\Phi_1^2 + \Phi_2^2 + \Phi_3^2 = 0, \quad (1)$$

$$\|\Phi_1\|^2 + \|\Phi_2\|^2 + \|\Phi_3\|^2 \neq 0, \quad (2)$$

and all periods of the Φ_j are purely imaginary. Then the minimal immersion $X : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ can be parameterized by $z \mapsto \text{Re} \int^z \Phi$. The above triple is called the Weierstrass representation of the immersion X . Usually, the first requirement (1) (which ensures the conformality of X) is guaranteed by introducing the formulas

$$\Phi_1 = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{g} - g \right) \Phi_3, \quad \Phi_2 = \frac{i}{2} \left(\frac{1}{g} + g \right) \Phi_3,$$

with a meromorphic function g (the stereographic projection of the Gauss map) and a holomorphic 1-form Φ_3 . The pair (g, Φ_3) is called the Weierstrass data of the minimal immersion X . In this article all the minimal immersions are defined on the simply connected Riemann surface Σ . Then, the Weierstrass data have no periods and so the only requirements are (1) and (2). The metric of X can be expressed as

$$\lambda_X^2 |dz|^2 = \frac{1}{2} \|\Phi\|^2 = \left(\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{|g|} + |g| \right) \|\Phi_3\| \right)^2. \quad (3)$$

2.1.1 The López-Ros transformation

The proof of Lemma 1 exploits what has come to be called the López-Ros transformation. If M is a Riemann surface and (g, Φ_3) are the Weierstrass data of a minimal immersion $X : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$, we define on M the data

$$\tilde{g} = \frac{g}{h}, \quad \tilde{\Phi}_3 = \Phi_3,$$

where $h : M \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is a holomorphic function without zeros. If the periods of this new Weierstrass representation are purely imaginary, then it defines a minimal immersion $\tilde{X} : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$. This method provides us with a powerful and natural tool for deforming minimal surfaces. From our point of view, the most important property of the resulting surface is that the third coordinate function is preserved. Note that the intrinsic metric is given by (3) as

$$\lambda_{\tilde{X}}^2 |dz|^2 = \left(\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{|h|}{|g|} + \frac{|g|}{|h|} \right) \|\Phi_3\| \right)^2.$$

This means that we can increase the intrinsic distance in a prescribed compact of M , by using suitable functions h .

3 Proof of Theorem 1

In order to prove the main theorem we need the following technical lemma. It will be proved later in subsection 3.1.

Lemma 1 *Let $X = (X_1, X_2, X_3) : \Sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ be a conformal minimal immersion being X_3 non-constant. Consider two positive constants $0 < r < R$ (with $R < 1$ if $\Sigma = \mathbb{D}$).*

Then, for any $\varepsilon, s > 0$ there exists a conformal minimal immersion $\tilde{X} = (\tilde{X}_1, \tilde{X}_2, \tilde{X}_3) : \Sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ such that

$$(L1) \quad \text{dist}_{\tilde{X}}(0, \mathbb{S}_R^1) > s.$$

$$(L2) \quad \|\tilde{X} - X\| < \varepsilon \text{ in } \overline{\mathbb{D}}_r.$$

$$(L3) \quad \tilde{X}_3 = X_3.$$

Assuming the above lemma, the proof of Theorem 1 goes as follows. First of all, consider $r_0 > 0$ ($0 < r_0 < 1$ in case $\Sigma = \mathbb{D}$) such that $K \subset \mathbb{D}_{r_0} \subset \Sigma$. Let $\{r_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ be an increasing sequence of positives, with $r_1 = r_0$, and such that $\{r_n\} \nearrow +\infty$ in case $\Sigma = \mathbb{C}$, and $\{r_n\} \nearrow 1$ in case $\Sigma = \mathbb{D}$. Finally, take any sequence $\{\sigma_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ with $0 < \sigma_n < 1$ and so that $\prod_{k=1}^{\infty} \sigma_k = 1/2$.

We will obtain the immersion Y as a limit of a sequence of immersions $\{X_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$. For any $n \in \mathbb{N}$, we will construct a family $\chi_n = \{X_n, \varepsilon_n\}$ where $X_n : \Sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ is a conformal minimal immersion and $\varepsilon_n < 6\varepsilon/(n^2\pi^2)$ is a positive number. Furthermore, the sequence $\{\chi_n\}_{n \geq 2}$ will satisfy the following properties.

$$(A_n) \quad \|X_n - X_{n-1}\| < \varepsilon_n \text{ in } \overline{\mathbb{D}}_{r_{n-1}}.$$

$$(B_n) \quad \text{dist}_{X_n}(0, \mathbb{S}_{r_n}^1) > n.$$

$$(C_n) \quad \lambda_{X_n} \geq \sigma_n \cdot \lambda_{X_{n-1}} \text{ in } \overline{\mathbb{D}}_{r_{n-1}}.$$

$$(D_n) \quad (X_n)_3 = X_3.$$

The sequence is constructed in a recursive way. The first element of the sequence is the immersion $X_1 = X$ and any positive $\varepsilon_1 < 6\varepsilon/\pi^2$. Assume we have defined χ_1, \dots, χ_n . Let us show how to construct the family χ_{n+1} . Consider a sequence $\{\xi_m\}_{m \in \mathbb{N}}$ decreasing to zero and such that

$$\xi_m < \min \left\{ \varepsilon_n, \frac{6\varepsilon}{\pi^2(n+1)^2} \right\}, \quad \forall m \in \mathbb{N}.$$

Let $F_m : \Sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ be the immersion obtained from Lemma 1 for the data

$$X = X_n, \quad r = r_n, \quad R = r_{n+1}, \quad \varepsilon = \xi_m, \quad s = n + 1.$$

The sequence $\{F_m\}_{m \in \mathbb{N}}$ converges to X_n uniformly on $\overline{\mathbb{D}}_{r_n}$. Therefore, there exists $m_0 \in \mathbb{N}$ large enough so that

$$\lambda_{F_{m_0}} \geq \sigma_{n+1} \cdot \lambda_{X_n} \quad \text{in } \overline{\mathbb{D}}_{r_{n-1}}. \quad (4)$$

Recall that $0 < \sigma_{n+1} < 1$. Label $X_{n+1} := F_{m_0}$ and $\varepsilon_{n+1} := \xi_{m_0}$. Properties (L2), (L1) and (L3) imply (A_{n+1}) , (B_{n+1}) and (D_{n+1}) , respectively. Finally, inequality (4) gives (C_{n+1}) . This concludes the construction of the sequence $\{\chi_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$.

Since $\Sigma = \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \overline{\mathbb{D}}_{r_n}$, we infer from properties (A_n) , $n \in \mathbb{N}$, that $\{X_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ converges to a smooth map $Y : \Sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ uniformly on compact sets of Σ . Let us check that Y satisfies the conclusion of the theorem.

- Y is an immersion. Indeed, consider $p \in \Sigma$. Fix $n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$ so that $p \in \overline{\mathbb{D}}_{r_{n_0}}$. From properties (C_n) , $n > n_0$, we obtain that

$$\lambda_{X_n}(p) \geq \frac{1}{2} \cdot \lambda_{X_{n_0}}(p),$$

where we have used that $\prod_{k=1}^{\infty} \sigma_k = 1/2$. If we take limits in the above inequality as $n \rightarrow \infty$ we infer that $\lambda_Y(p) \geq \frac{1}{2} \lambda_{X_{n_0}}(p) > 0$, and therefore, Y is an immersion.

- Since Y is harmonic (Harnack's Theorem), it is minimal and conformal.
- Y is complete. In order to check it, let α be a divergent curve in Σ starting at 0. Then, for any $k \in \mathbb{N}$, we have

$$\text{length}_Y(\alpha) \geq \text{length}_Y(\alpha \cap \overline{\mathbb{D}}_{r_k}) \geq \frac{1}{2} \text{length}_{X_k}(\alpha \cap \overline{\mathbb{D}}_{r_k}) > \frac{k}{2},$$

where we have used properties (B_n) and (C_n) , $n \geq k$. Hence, $\text{length}_Y(\alpha) = \infty$, which proves the completeness of Y .

- Statement (a) follows from properties (A_n) , $n \in \mathbb{N}$, and the facts that $\sum_{n \geq 1} \varepsilon_n < \varepsilon$ and $K \subset \overline{\mathbb{D}}_{r_n}$, $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$.
- Statement (b) is a trivial consequence of properties (D_n) , $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

The proof is done.

3.1 Proof of Lemma 1

Let (g, Φ_3) be the Weierstrass data of the immersion X . Since X_3 is non-constant and Σ is simply connected we can write $\Phi_3 = \phi_3(z)dz$ with ϕ_3 non identically zero. Therefore, there exist a constant $\delta > 0$ and two real numbers r' and R' with $r < r' < R' < R$, satisfying

$$|\phi_3| > \delta \quad \text{in } \mathbb{D}_{R'} \setminus \overline{\mathbb{D}}_{r'}. \quad (5)$$

Fix a natural N (which will be specified later) such that $2/N < R' - r'$. The immersion \tilde{X} will be obtained from X by using López-Ros transformation. The effect of this deformation will be concentrated on a labyrinth of compact sets contained in $\mathbb{D}_{R'} \setminus \overline{\mathbb{D}}_{r'}$. On the other hand, the deformation hardly acts on $\overline{\mathbb{D}}_r$. The shape of the labyrinth is inspired in those used by Jorge and Xavier [JX]. Let us describe it.

For any $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $n = 1, \dots, 2N^2$, define $s_n = R' - n/N^3$ and label $s_0 = R'$. Now, consider the set (see Figure 1)

$$\mathcal{K}_n = \left\{ z \in \mathbb{C} \mid s_n + \frac{1}{4N^3} \leq |z| \leq s_{n-1} - \frac{1}{4N^3}, \quad \frac{1}{N^2} \leq \arg((-1)^n z) \leq 2\pi - \frac{1}{N^2} \right\}.$$

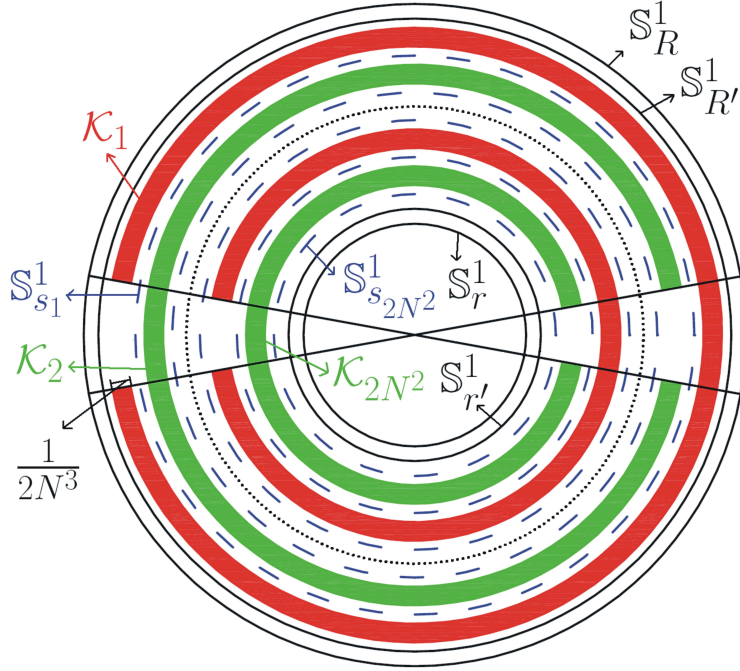


Figure 1: The labyrinth of compact sets.

Then, consider

$$\mathcal{K} = \bigcup_{n=1}^{2N^2} \mathcal{K}_n.$$

From the definition of the compact set \mathcal{K} follows that any curve joining $\mathbb{S}_{r'}^1$ and $\mathbb{S}_{R'}^1$ without going through \mathcal{K} must have large Euclidean length. This fact is stated in the following claim.

Claim 1 *Let $\lambda^2|dz|^2$ be a conformal metric on Σ satisfying*

$$\lambda \geq \begin{cases} c & \text{in } \mathbb{D}_{R'} \setminus \overline{\mathbb{D}_{r'}} \\ cN^4 & \text{in } \mathcal{K}, \end{cases}$$

for some $c > 0$.

Then, there exists a positive constant ρ not depending on c nor N and such that

$$\text{length}_{\lambda^2|dz|^2}(\alpha) > \rho \cdot c \cdot N$$

holds, for any α curve in Σ joining $\mathbb{S}_{r'}^1$ and $\mathbb{S}_{R'}^1$.

Now, we define the function we use as parameter of the López-Ros transformation. In order to do it, for any $\beta > 0$ we consider a holomorphic function $h_\beta : \Sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^*$ with the following two properties:

- $|h_\beta - 1| < 1/\beta$ in $\overline{\mathbb{D}}_r$.
- $|h_\beta - \beta| < 1/\beta$ in \mathcal{K} .

The set $\mathcal{K} \cup \overline{\mathbb{D}}_r$ is a compact set and $\Sigma \setminus (\mathcal{K} \cup \overline{\mathbb{D}}_r)$ is connected. Hence, the existence of the above functions is guaranteed by Runge's Theorem.

Define the Weierstrass data on Σ

$$g^\beta := \frac{g}{h_\beta}, \quad \Phi_3^\beta := \Phi_3.$$

These Weierstrass data give rise to a minimal immersion $X^\beta : \Sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$. Notice that h_β converges to 1 (resp. ∞) uniformly on $\overline{\mathbb{D}}_r$ (resp. \mathcal{K}). Hence, there exists a large enough β_0 such that

- (i) $\|X^{\beta_0} - X\| < \varepsilon$ in $\overline{\mathbb{D}}_r$.
- (ii) $\lambda_{X^{\beta_0}} \geq \delta \cdot N^4$ in \mathcal{K} , where δ was defined in equation (5), and $\lambda_{X^{\beta_0}}^2$ is the conformal factor of the metric induced by X^{β_0} (see (3)).

Label $\tilde{X} := X^{\beta_0}$. Let us check that \tilde{X} has the desired properties, provided that N was chosen to be large enough. From the very definition of \tilde{X} , statements (L2) and (L3) trivially hold. In order to check (L1) notice first that

$$\lambda_{\tilde{X}} \geq |\phi_3| > \delta \quad \text{in } \mathbb{D}_{R'} \setminus \overline{\mathbb{D}}_{r'}, \quad (6)$$

where we have taken into account (5). Then, properties (ii), (6) and Claim 1 guarantee that

$$\text{length}_{\tilde{X}}(\alpha) \geq \delta \cdot \rho \cdot N,$$

for any curve α in Σ joining 0 with \mathbb{S}_R^1 . Assume that we chose N large enough so that $\delta \cdot \rho \cdot N > s$ (recall that neither ρ nor δ depend on N). This finishes the proof.

4 Some consequences of Theorem 1

It may be followed from our main theorem some interesting results concerning not only minimal surfaces.

As we deal with simply connected surfaces, it is not hard to realize any harmonic function as a coordinate function of a minimal immersion. Hence, Theorem 1 implies that any harmonic function on a simply connected domain is a coordinate function of a complete minimal immersion, as stated in the next theorem.

Theorem 2 *Let $\Sigma = \mathbb{C}, \mathbb{D}$ and $u : \Sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a harmonic function. Assume u is non constant in case $\Sigma = \mathbb{D}$.*

Then, there exists a complete conformal minimal immersion $Y = (Y_1, Y_2, Y_3) : \Sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ such that $Y_3 = u$.

Proof. First of all notice that in case $\Sigma = \mathbb{C}$ and u is constant, the plane $x_3 = u$ satisfies the conclusion of the theorem.

Thus, let us assume that u is non constant, and define the holomorphic 1-form

$$\Phi_3 = du + i(\star du),$$

where \star denotes the Hodge operator. Since Σ is simply connected we can write $\Phi_3 = \phi_3(z)dz$ on Σ . Then the pair (ϕ_3, Φ_3) are Weierstrass data on Σ and so they define a conformal minimal immersion $X = (X_1, X_2, X_3) : \Sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$. Moreover, it is straightforward to check that $X_3 = u$. Now, applying Theorem 1 to the immersion X , any compact set $K \subset \Sigma$ and any positive ε , we obtain an immersion fulfilling the statement of the theorem. \square

Other interesting (and immediate) consequence of Theorem 1 is a density type result. Let $u : \Sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a non constant harmonic function, and label $\mathcal{A}_u = \{X = (X_1, X_2, X_3) : \Sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3 \text{ conformal minimal immersion} \mid X_3 = u\}$. With this notation the following holds.

Corollary 1 *Let $u : \Sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a non constant harmonic function on $\Sigma = \mathbb{C}, \mathbb{D}$.*

Then, complete immersions in \mathcal{A}_u are dense in \mathcal{A}_u , endowed with the topology of the uniform convergence on compact sets.

Theorem 1 can be applied to other geometric theories. Maximal surfaces in the 3-dimensional Lorentz-Minkowski space $\mathbb{L}^3 = (\mathbb{R}^3, dx_1^2 + dx_2^2 - dx_3^2)$ are spacelike surfaces with vanishing mean curvature. There is a close connection between minimal and maximal surfaces. Indeed, if $X = \text{Re} \int (\Phi_1, \Phi_2, \Phi_3) : \Sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ is a conformal minimal immersion defined on a simply connected surface Σ , then

$$\hat{X} = \text{Re} \int (i\Phi_1, i\Phi_2, \Phi_3) : \Sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{L}^3$$

is a conformal maximal immersion (possibly with lightlike singularities), with the same third coordinate function. See [K, FLS] for more details on maximal surfaces. Using this connection we can translate Theorem 2 to the Lorentzian setting.

Corollary 2 *Let $\Sigma = \mathbb{C}, \mathbb{D}$ and $u : \Sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a harmonic function. Assume u is non constant in case $\Sigma = \mathbb{D}$.*

Then, there exists a conformal maximal immersion (possibly with lightlike singularities), $Y = (Y_1, Y_2, Y_3) : \Sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{L}^3$, such that $Y_3 = u$ and Y is weakly complete in the sense of Umehara and Yamada [UY].

Other geometrical objects related with minimal surfaces are null curves (see for instance [MUY]). By definition, a complex curve $F = (F_1, F_2, F_3) : \Sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^3$ is said to be a holomorphic null curve if its coordinate functions are holomorphic and they satisfy

$$(F_1')^2 + (F_2')^2 + (F_3')^2 = 0,$$

where $'$ denotes the complex derivative. Using Weierstrass representation, simply connected minimal surfaces in \mathbb{R}^3 can be seen as the real part of holomorphic null curves in \mathbb{C}^3 , and conversely. Moreover, the minimal surface and the associated holomorphic null curve have the same metric. This allows us to prove the next result.

Corollary 3 *Let $f : \Sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be a holomorphic function on $\Sigma = \mathbb{C}, \mathbb{D}$. Assume f is non constant if $\Sigma = \mathbb{D}$.*

Then, there exists a complete holomorphic null curve $F = (F_1, F_2, F_3) : \Sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^3$ with $F_3 = f$.

Finally, we would like to remark that our results are sharp in the following sense. Recall that Nadirashvili's techniques give complete conformal bounded minimal disks. Since our arguments are inspired in his techniques, it could be expected that, starting from a bounded harmonic function on the disk, one could obtain a complete bounded minimal immersion having this function as a coordinate function. However, the following proposition shows that this is not possible in general.

Proposition 1 *Let $X = (X_1, X_2, X_3) : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ be a complete conformal minimal immersion. Assume that X_3 can be extended smoothly to the closed disk $\overline{\mathbb{D}}$.*

Then, X_1 and X_2 are unbounded on \mathbb{D} .

Proof. Let $\Phi = (\Phi_1, \Phi_2, \Phi_3)$ be the Weierstrass data of X and write $\Phi_j = \phi_j(z)dz$, $j = 1, 2, 3$.

Reasoning by contradiction, let us assume that X_2 is bounded. Then, Bourgain's Theorem [B] gives the existence of a real number $0 < \theta < 2\pi$ such that

$$\int_0^1 |\phi_2(re^{i\theta})| dr < \infty.$$

On the other hand, the assumption on X_3 guarantees that

$$\int_0^1 |\phi_3(re^{i\theta})| dr < \infty.$$

Since X is a conformal map, it follows that $|\phi_1|^2 \leq |\phi_2|^2 + |\phi_3|^2$ and so, from the above inequalities we get

$$\int_0^1 \|(\phi_1, \phi_2, \phi_3)(re^{i\theta})\| dr < \infty,$$

which contradicts the completeness of X . □

References

- [A] A. Alarcón, *Compact complete minimal immersions in \mathbb{R}^3* . Trans. Amer. Math. Soc. (To appear).
- [AFM] A. Alarcón, L. Ferrer, F. Martín, *Density theorems for complete minimal surfaces*. Geom. Funct. Anal. **18** (1), 1–49 (2008).
- [AN] A. Alarcón, N. Nadirashvili, *Limit sets for complete minimal immersions*. Math. Z. **258** (1), 107–113 (2008).
- [B] J. Bourgain, *On the radial variation of bounded analytic functions on the disc*. Duke Math. J. **69** (3), 671–682 (1993).
- [C] E. Calabi, *Problems in differential geometry*. Ed. S. Kobayashi and J. Ells, Jr., Proceedings of the United States-Japan Seminar in Differential Geometry, Kyoto, Japan, 1965. Nippon Hyoronsha Co., Ltd., Tokyo 170 (1966).
- [CM] T. H. Colding and W. P. Minicozzi, *The Calabi-Yau conjectures for embedded surfaces*. Ann. of Math. **167** (1), 211–243 (2008).
- [FLS] I. Fernández, F. J. López, R. Souam, *The space of complete embedded maximal surfaces with isolated singularities in the 3-dimensional Lorentz-Minkowski space*. Math. Ann. **332** (3), 605–643 (2005).
- [JX] L. P. Jorge, F. Xavier, *A complete minimal surface in \mathbb{R}^3 between two parallel planes*. Ann. of Math. **112** (1), 203–206 (1980).
- [K] O. Kobayashi, *Maximal surfaces in the 3-dimensional Minkowski space E^3* . Tokyo J. Math. **6** (2), 297–309 (1983).
- [LMM] F. J. López, F. Martín, S. Morales, *Adding handles to Nadirashvili’s surfaces*. J. Differential Geom. **60** (1), 155–175 (2002).
- [MN] F. Martín, N. Nadirashvili, *A Jordan curve spanned by a complete minimal surface*. Arch. Ration. Mech. Anal. **184** (2), 285–301 (2007).
- [MUY] F. Martín, M. Umehara, K. Yamada, *Complete bounded null curves immersed in \mathbb{C}^3 and $SL(2, \mathbb{C})$* . Preprint.
- [MR] W. H. Meeks III, H. Rosenberg, *The uniqueness of the helicoid*. Ann. of Math. **161** (2), 727–758 (2005).
- [N1] N. Nadirashvili, *Hadamard’s and Calabi-Yau’s conjectures on negatively curved and minimal surfaces*. Invent. Math. **126** (3), 457–465 (1996).
- [N2] N. Nadirashvili, *An application of potential analysis to minimal surfaces*. Dedicated to the memory of I. G. Petrovskii on the occasion of his 100th anniversary. Mosc. Math. J. **1** (4), 601–604 (2001).

- [UY] M. Umehara, K. Yamada, *Maximal surfaces with singularities in Minkowski space*. Hokkaido Math. J. **35** (1), 13–40 (2006).

Antonio Alarcón

Departamento de Geometría y Topología,
Universidad de Granada, E-18071 Granada, Spain.
e-mail: alarcon@ugr.es.

Isabel Fernández

Departamento de Matemática Aplicada I,
Universidad de Sevilla, E-41012 Sevilla, Spain.
e-mail: isafer@us.es